

Approved Minutes  
**Friend of the Court Bureau**  
**Advisory Committee Annual Meeting**  
State Court Administrative Office - Lansing, MI  
Thursday, April 7, 2005

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dr. Bill Brooks, Hon. Mabel Mayfield, Murray Davis, Patti Holden, Fred Lebowitz , Suzanne Hoseth and Lynn Bullard

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Anthony Paruk

**STAFF PRESENT:** Dan Wright, Kelly Howard, and Darla Brandon

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Brooks called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

**2. ROUTINE BUSINESS**

- a. Approval of April 7<sup>th</sup> Minutes – A motion was made by Ms. Holden and seconded by Mr. Lebowitz to approve the Minutes as submitted. **Motion passed unanimously.**
- b. Public Comment  
  
There was no public comment.
- c. Correspondence – None.

**3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- a. Committee meeting highlights for Pundit – A Bureau staff member is working on providing an article about the FOCB Advisory Committee to be included in the Pundit.
- b. Committee Vacancies – The positions have not been filled. There are positions available for: attorney, public member, and human services professional. Mr. Wright is working on filling these positions.
- c. Advisory Committee's Function – Dan informed the Committee that the overall function of the Advisory Committee is to advise the Friend of the Court Bureau. The Bureau will keep the Committee informed of everything that is going on so that they will have an opportunity to react and offer advice, and additional ideas.

#### **4. NEW BUSINESS**

Dr. Brooks discussed that after meeting with the Bureau on several occasions that it has been helpful for the Committee to get more aligned with the pulse of what the realistic situations are for the Bureau. The Committee would like to take on a substantial role with respect to meeting some needs of the Bureau.

The Committee is also interested in working with various Bureau staff individually to assist in discussing issues, give input and take on tasks. The Committee is interested in serving a defined role to the Bureau now that a restructuring has taken place. The Committee will bring forth some ideas at the next meeting.

#### **5. CLOSING**

- a. Members Closing Comments – Ms. Hoseth questioned the new law on the disbanding of the CACs. Mr. Wright responded that the legislature realized that they could not require the counties to form a CAC without providing funding to do so.

Mr. Lebowitz discussed the Oakland County CAC. He informed the Committee that although the Commissioners were thinking about disbanding the Oakland CAC, since then, they are actively trying to find persons to fill the two vacancies. The CAC has met twice and are reviewing grievances and there is more optimism as to what can be accomplished.

- b. Final Public Comment – None.
- c. Future Meeting Dates - to be discussed.
- d. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darla Brandon